

Capacity Building for Tuna Management - a Small-Islands Perspective

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Outline of the Presentation

- Context for the capacity building
- Importance of tuna resources for the coastal counties and SIDs
- Challenges faced by the coastal countries / SIDs
- Why capacity building is critical in the coastal countries?
- Recommendations

Context

KOBE process – Course of Action 2009-2011

“Taking into account the **special needs of the developing coastal States**, in particular, **small island developing states** and territories and States with small and vulnerable economies, and recognizing the need to find mechanism enhance the capacity of these States to benefit from and participate in the tuna fisheries and to fulfill their obligations as parties to RFMOs”

Importance of Tuna Resource to Coastal States and SIDs

- Traditional Fisheries – long history
 - Associated with livelihood
 - Often the primary means for gainful employment in the communities
- Source of export revenue
 - Maldives: 100+ million US\$ annually
- Food security
 - An important source of protein
 - High per capita fish consumption
- Economies are vulnerable
 - Narrow resource base
 - Highly vulnerable to external shocks in the globalized economy

Challenges

- Landing sites are dispersed over wide geographic expanse –expensive to collect data
 - Maldives; 200 fishing communities spread over 800 km from 1S to 7N
 - Multiple landing sites in coastal states.
- Lack of adequately trained staff in government fishery agencies
 - High attrition of trained staff + brain drain!
 - Trained people quickly re-assigned for important administrative tasks

Challenges ..

- Increased data requirements due to stock assessment models being used
 - Time series of catch and effort data
 - Biological data (size; length/weight, growth and mortality; tagging data)
 - Inadequacy of spatial data available / requirements for fine scale data
 - Limited sampling effort; requires to provide guesstimated (and aggregated) values
- New systems of data collection difficult and expensive to implement
 - Maldives - switching from a total enumeration system to a logbook recording or sampling system is proving to be difficult

Challenges ...

- Weak institutional arrangements
 - Lack of coordination between different provinces / atolls
 - Unequal or centralized developments in SIDs and developing states
- Build up of excess fishing capacity
 - Encouraged by the DWFNs catch, many coastal countries are planning fishing capacity investments, e.g., India (subsidy for conversion of trawlers to longlines). Sri Lanka (post-war rush to invest offshore tuna fishing)
- IUU fishing in the EEZs
 - Often by the DWFNs

Why Capacity Building is Critical?

- *“Securing minimal level of data necessary for scientific advice that is still is missing”* – Dr. Suzuki
- Intricacies of the data requirement for assessment being implemented by the Commissions
 - Tagging data; conventional and electronic tagging data, otolith readings for ageing, proper recording and compiling of tag recovery data
 - Biological data; gonad sampling for fecundity, length and weight, sex-ratio
 - Socioeconomic data; excess fishing capacity
 - Fleet dynamics; through VMS for designing of tagging experiments

Why Capacity Building is Critical? .

- Fisheries in coastal states and SIDs are increasing
 - Maldives' SKJ catch is > 20% of the total reported IO catch. It is CRITICAL the Maldives data be included in any proper stock assessment.
 - Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Iran
- Data requirements by the commission are demanding
 - Use of the modern, data intense, assessment methods – MULTIFAN - CL, ASPM, ASCALA, ASPIC, etc.
 - Stock assessments models require structured data with good spatial coverage and resolutions
- Requirement for complementary data for indirect assessment of ecosystem health
 - Bycatch and incidental catches
 - Sharks, birds and mammal interactions
 - Observer data

Recommendations

- Possibility of KOBE Process undertaking a review of the tuna management capacity in the coastal countries and SIDs
- Possibility to undertake a review of the effectiveness of the capacity building assistance already been provided.
- Increased and sustained funding commitment from the developed countries, particularly DWFNs, to improve capacity for the coastal countries and SIDs
- Provide regular training for fishery officers of the SIDs and coastal states
 - Has been very effective in the Pacific – thanks to SPC

Recommendations ..

- ‘Tuna Management Capacity Building Fund’ for coastal countries / SIDs!
 - For short term and targeted scholarships/ fellowships and training opportunities for developing countries
 - Help scientists and technical officers to take part in the meetings
 - Strengthening institutional arrangements where required.

Thank you